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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

83-1551/3

#83-2528

August 1, 1983

The Honorable William J. Casey
 Director of Central Intelligence
 Central Intelligence Agency
 Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bill:

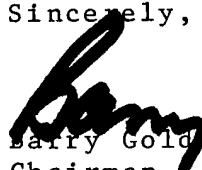
Recently, Clair George sent me the final report of the Working Group on Soviet Military Economic Analysis. In reviewing the report, I noticed that on Page 5, it makes the following recommendation:

"The finding that the CIA estimates are frequently misunderstood as well as misused for political purposes suggests the possible conclusion that CIA should simply stop publishing or even preparing estimates of Soviet military expenditures. We recommend, in fact, the opposite action; i.e., that the CIA itself publish the estimates, that their meaning and limitations be explained more fully, and that the CIA put restrictions on their use by other Executive Branch agencies, requiring that they be quoted only with the appropriate qualifications."

Bill, as you may recall, this recommendation corresponds with what I have been saying for a long time now. In fact, when I wrote to you last April on this subject, I indicated that in my view, and in the view of most of the Members of our Committee, these reports are just the sort of thing that the CIA should be making available to the public so that they can better understand the magnitude and the nature of Soviet defense expenditures.

Now, I am glad to hear that this panel of distinguished experts believes that "the CIA does an excellent job of estimating Soviet military expenditures." I am also glad to hear that they share our view that the products of this work should be made available to the public.

Sincerely,


 Barry Goldwater
 Chairman

Enclosure

DCI
 EXEC
 REG

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#83-1258

April 13, 1983

The Honorable William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bill:

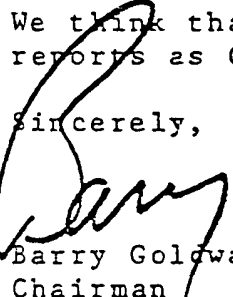
Thank you for appearing before the Committee on March 24, 1983, to discuss publication of a dollar cost comparison of Soviet and U.S. defense expenditures and Communist Aid Activities in Non-Communist Less Developed Countries.

As we discussed in the hearing, I agreed to withhold any further judgment until all the Members had an opportunity to review your testimony. Each Member received a copy of your talking points as well as a copy of the complete statement. They were then polled as to whether or not publication of these documents by CIA should continue. The response was overwhelmingly supportive of continued publication in an unclassified form. But, the Vice Chairman, Pat Moynihan, sided with you on the issue.

Bill, Members of the Committee, including myself, were simply not convinced by your arguments. These are just the sort of reports that the CIA should be making available to the public so they can better understand the magnitude and the nature of Soviet defense expenditures, as well as their aid activities to non-Communist less developed countries around the world.

We think that the decision to cancel dissemination of these two reports as CIA products was wrong, and we urge you to reconsider.

Sincerely,


Barry Goldwater
Chairman

Enclosures